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EXAMINER

CHEN, SHIN HON

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2131

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/653,517

Applicant(s)

MACKAY ET AL

Examiner

Shin-Hon Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: encrypted electronic content to be decrypted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Grecsek U.S. Pat. No. 6088801 (hereinafter Grecsek).

5. As per claim 1, Grecsek discloses a method for protecting electronic content from unauthorized use by a user of a computer system, the method including: receiving a request from a user of the computer system of access a piece of electronic content (Grecsek: column 3 lines 24-33); identifying one or more software modules responsible for processing the piece of electronic content (Grecsek: column 3 lines 35-50); evaluating one or more predefined

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characteristics of the one or more software modules (Grecsek: column 3 line 64 – column 4 line 6); and denying the request to access the piece of electronic content if the one or more predefined characteristics fail to satisfy a set of predefined criteria (Grecsek: column 3 lines 30-33: grant or deny process access).

6. As per claim 2, Grecsek discloses the method as in claim 1. Grecsek further discloses the method including: using the predefined criteria to evaluate a predefined policy, and basing a decision to deny the request on the outcome of this evaluation (Grecsek: column 3 lines 35-63 and column 4 lines 21-36).

7. As per claim 3, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 1. Grecsek further discloses evaluating one or more predefined characteristics of the one or more software modules includes computing the cryptographic hash of at least one of the one or more software modules (Grecsek: column 4 lines 50-55).

8. As per claim 5, Grecsek discloses a method for protecting electronic content from unauthorized use, the method including: receiving a request to access a piece of electronic content (Grecsek: column 3 line 64 – column 4 line 6); generating a first identifier associated with the electronic content (Grecsek: column 4 lines 7-20); monitoring at least one system interface (Grecsek: column 4 lines 7-20); the monitoring including: receiving a piece of electronic data (Grecsek: column 4 lines 7-20 and 50-55); generating a second identifier associated with the piece of electronic data (Grecsek: column 4 lines 7-20; column 4 lines 28-37 and 50-55);

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comparing the second identifier with the first identifier; taking a predefined defensive action if the second identifier is related to the first identifier in a predefined manner (Grecsek: column 4 lines 7-28; column 4 lines 50-55).

9. As per claim 7, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 5. Grecsek further discloses the first identifier comprises a hash of at least a portion of the electronic content, and in which the second identifier comprises a hash of at least a portion of the piece, of electronic data (Grecsek: column 4 lines 7-20 and 50-55).

10. As per claim 8, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 5. Grecsek further discloses in which the first identifier comprises a predefined portion of the electronic content and in which the second identifier comprises a predefined portion of the piece of electronic data (Grecsek: column 4 lines 7-20).

11. As per claim 9, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 5. Grecsek further discloses in which the system interface comprises a file system interface to one or more device drivers (Grecsek: column 3 line 52 – column 4 line 20).

12. As per claim 14, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 5. Grecsek further discloses in which the predefined defensive action comprises preventing the transfer of at least a portion of the piece of electronic data to an output device via the system interface (Grecsek: column 3 line 64 – column 4 line 20).

13. As per claim 15, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 5. Grecsek further discloses comparing the identifier to determine whether the software is allowed to be executed (Grecsek: column 3 line 64 – column 4 line 6).

14. As per claim 16, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 5. Grecsek further discloses in which the at least one system interface is selected using rules associated with the electronic content, the rules being operable to identify certain system interfaces to which the electronic content is not allowed to be sent (Grecsek: column 3 line 64 – column 4 line 20).

15. As per claim 17, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 9. Grecsek further discloses in which the one or more device drivers are selected from the group consisting of: video display driver, sound driver, SCSI driver, IDE driver, network driver, video capture driver, floppy disk driver, and scanner driver (Grecsek: column 3 line 64 – column 4 line 27).

16. As per claim 18, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 5. Grecsek further discloses does not explicitly disclose the method comprising: (a)(1) inserting a cryptographic fingerprint into the piece of electronic content, the cryptographic fingerprint containing information relating to the request to access said piece of electronic content (Grecsek: column 4 lines 50-55).

17. As per claim 19, Davis as modified discloses a method as in claim 18, Davis as modified further discloses in which inserting said cryptographic fingerprint into the piece of electronic

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content includes: (i) authenticating a fingerprinting engine using a cryptographic credential; (ii) using the fingerprinting engine to insert the cryptographic fingerprint into the piece of electronic content (Grecsek: column 4 lines 50-55).

18. As per claim 20, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 19. Grecsek further discloses in which the fingerprinting engine is operable to authenticate a calling application using a cryptographic credential (Grecsek: column 4 lines 50-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

19. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

20. Claims 4, 6, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grecsek in view of Davis U.S. Pat. No. 6064739 (hereinafter Davis).

21. As per claim 4, Grecsek discloses a system for protecting electronic content, the system comprising: means for applying a cryptographic fingerprint to the electronic content; means for evaluating one or more predefined characteristics of the drivers responsible for handling the electronic content (Grecsek: column 3 lines 24-33); means for denying effective access to the electronic content based on an output of said means for evaluating one or more predefined characteristics of the drivers responsible for handling the electronic content (Grecsek: column 3

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lines 30-33: grant or deny process access); means for generating an identifier associated with the electronic content (Grecsek: column 3 line 64 – column 4 line 6); means for monitoring a predefined system interface for data containing the identifier (Grecsek: column 3 lines 35-50); means for preventing effective access to data containing the identifier via the predefined system interface (Grecsek: column 3 lines 24-35). Grecsek does not explicitly disclose applying a cryptographic fingerprint to the electronic content. However, Davis discloses encrypting content to be protected before authorized access (Davis: abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to apply cryptographic fingerprint to the electronic content stored within the computer system because multiple data protection schemes can be applied to a protected data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Davis within the system of Grecsek because it increases data protection by applying cryptographic fingerprint on the data itself.

22. As per claim 6, Grecsek discloses the method as in claim 5. Grecsek does not explicitly disclose the method including: (a)(1) decrypting the electronic content (Davis: column 2 lines 16-29). However, Davis discloses decrypting content to be protected after authorized access (Davis: abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to apply cryptographic fingerprint to the electronic content stored within the computer system because multiple data protection schemes can be applied to a protected data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Davis within the system of Grecsek because it increases data protection by applying cryptographic fingerprint on the data itself.

23. As per claim 10, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 5. Grecsek does not explicitly disclose re-encrypting/modifying the piece of electronic data when the data is stored in the buffer to prevent software probing. However, Davis discloses that limitation (Davis: column 2 lines 16-29 and column 1 lines 50 – column 2 line 29 and column 7 lines 6-28). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to re-encrypt the data when it is transferred between devices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Davis within the system of Grecsek because it prevents protected data being intercepted in plaintext form.

24. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grecsek in view of Davis and further in view of Ciacelli et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6236727 (hereinafter Ciacelli).

25. As per claim 11, Grecsek as modified discloses a method as in claim 10. Grecsek as modified does not explicitly disclose in which modifying at least a portion of the piece of electronic data includes scrambling at least a portion of the piece of electronic data. However, Ciacelli discloses scrambling portion of electronic data to protect copyright data (Ciacelli: column 2 lines 3-65). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Ciacelli within the system of Grecsek because scrambling a digital data protects the data from being viewed or used by unauthorized parties.

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26. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grecsek in view of Shimada European Patent No. EP0915620 (hereinafter Shimada).

27. As per claim 12 and 13, Grecsek discloses a method as in claim 5. Grecsek does not explicitly disclose the predefined defensive action comprises adding noise/electronic watermark to at least a portion of the piece of electronic data. However, Shimada discloses that limitation (Shimada: [0011]-[0017]). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Shimada within the system of Grecsek because burying noise and digital watermark into data prevents unauthorized copy of a recorded data by an recording/reproducing device.

Response to Arguments

28. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

29. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

SDMI, "SDMI Portable Device Specification Part 1 Version 1.0 " discloses checking whether a device or application is SDMI compliant before execution of the device/application based on information contained in the digital data indicating whether the data should be protected.

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Benson et al. U.S. Pat. No. 5845281 discloses controlling usage of digital data after it has been transmitted to intended users and checking the data to see if there is any control data in embedded in the data intended to restrict the use of the digital data.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shin-Hon Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shin-Hon Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2131

SC


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